

S.N. 10/723,318

135858

Date of Office Communication: April 19, 2007

REMARKS

This RCE and amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed April 19, 2007 wherein the Examiner stated that claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Entrekin et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0010193 A1) in view of Godik (U.S. 6,243,484 B1). In this amendment, independent claims 1, 12 and 15 were amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-22 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In response to the Examiner's final rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 USC §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Entrekin et al. in view of Godik, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on the claims as amended. Neither Entrekin nor Godik, individually or in combination, disclose a plurality of tensioning apparatuses that apply tensile force to the compression membrane wherein the tensioning apparatuses comprise an inflatable bladder, as recited in independent claims 1, 12 and 15. Although Godik discloses two opposing inflatable membranes, the objects being imaged with Godik's assembly are placed in between these two opposing inflatable membranes. As such, Godik's inflatable membranes teach away from using a plurality of inflatable bladders to apply tensile force to Entrekin's upper compression plate. It would also not be obvious to try using Godik's inflatable bags, which act as the compression membranes themselves, as a means for applying tension to Entrekin's separate upper compression plate. In fact, neither Godik nor Entrekin disclose any means for coupling Godik's inflatable membranes, to Entrekin's compression plate. Dependent claims 2-11, 13-14 and 16-22 depend, respectively, from claims 1, 12 and 15, and further recite novel elements, and are therefore patentable over the references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

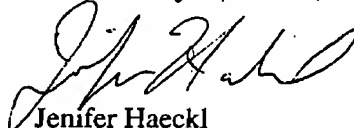
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If the Examiner believes that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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